

VIP

**VOLUNTEERS IN
PREVENTION/PROBATION**
GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE COURT

September-October, 2011
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Juvenile Mental Health Court Program



The 13th Circuit Court-Family Division is excited to announce our newest program. On June 2, 2011, Judge Stowe welcomed the first participants to the Juvenile Mental Health Court Program.

The Juvenile Mental Health Court Program is a cooperative venture between 13th Circuit Court-Family Division, local Community Mental Health agencies and the Grand Traverse County Prosecutors Office. These agencies came together based on the philosophy that this community can better serve our court involved mentally ill youth and their families by combining resources and staff and working together toward the common goal of diverting youth from the justice system into long term mental health treatment.

The Juvenile Mental Health Court provides intensive case management to youth in the juvenile justice system with identified mental health illnesses. The program is strength based in philosophy and focuses on treatment. Once accepted into the Juvenile Mental Health Court Program, each youth will have a contract/plan that details their requirements. The youth and family will appear before Judge Stowe on a weekly basis for status review hearings. The status review hearings allow the juveniles to be commended on their progress, allows challenges or problems to be addressed as they arise, establishes an opportunity for all parties (parents, youth, probation officer, therapist, attorney, etc.) to provide input, and provides the opportunity for increased judicial oversight.

As indicated, the Juvenile Mental Health Court is a collaborative effort. Judge Stowe, the defense attorney, probation staff and mental health care workers all participate in weekly multi-disciplinary team meetings to screen cases, review progress of the participants, make recommendations and discuss program details. Together, the team develops a case management plan that focuses on obtaining and coordinating services necessary for the participant to remain in their home, in school, and out of the juvenile detention system.

The Juvenile Mental Health Court Program currently has six participants, with 2 additional participants scheduled to begin the program in late August. Judge Stowe and the entire Juvenile Mental Health Court team have been very encouraged with the success of the program and the positive impact on the participants and their families. We were rewarded on August 4th with three of our first participants advanced to Phase Two of the program. Observing the joy and pride on the faces of the participants as they were honored by Judge Stowe and the team was monumental for all involved.

Judge Stowe and the Juvenile Mental Health Court team are proud to have implemented this program in our community and look forward to its continued success and positive impact on the lives of the youth and families we serve.

— Cheryl Goodwin
Therapeutic Programs Coordinator

Happy Birthday

September

Frances Figurski
Maryann Wichtner
Don Hutchinson
Alex Moore
Diana Zapalski
Pat Bowen
Marilyn Vlach
Jeri Cooke
Will Elsenheimer

Thelma Weber
Dick Parks
Diane Cowley
Michael Herron
Brad Purcell
Paul Hathaway
Eileen Larsen
Patti Marar
Nathan Juett

October

Barbara Counsell
Peg Gove
Dolores Rode
Sue Soderberg
Violet Brott
Bobette McPherson
Sara Stargardt
Robin Komrska
James Dawson

Joe Fraser
Maria Hummel
Jim Doman
Darlene Warren
Sue Noakes
Nancy Crandall
David Speirs
Jennifer Lamb
Jim Valko



We are saddened by the passing of our friend Jack Bay. Jack joined our Volunteer Services in 2005, following the footsteps made in 1992 by his wife Ruth. He put his hospital experience to work right away as an emergency guardian- later accepting a court appointed guardianship for the same case. He became a CASA volunteer, along with Ruth, and they were appointed together to advocate for children in 5 cases.

A thoughtful man with a twinkle in his eye, Jack brought us his gifts of wisdom, experience and desire to help others.

He will be truly missed.

Thanks Volunteers

Many thanks to Don Hutchinson, Lynn Troutman, Lisa Woodcox, and Russ Wright for attending a guardianship training on Tuesday, July 26.

Hosted by Nancy Turner, Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Brad Geller, Assistant State Long Term Care Ombudsman was on hand to talk about guardianship and alternatives for adults.

Thanks also to Diana Zapalski, Lynn Troutman, Dolores Rode, Marilyn Vlach, Joan Wigton, April Putnam and Barb Wilkins for their generous donations of sheets for our New Vision Academy rug making project. Seven youth learned how to make "rugs from sheets" during the two day class.

Emergency Guardians

An Emergency Guardian meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 15, 2011 from 12:00—2:00 pm.** Many of our emergency/temporary guardians have been called upon recently with assignments. We hope to discuss issues presented during that time.

A light lunch will be served.

Please RSVP to us at 231-922-4827.

In recognition of her efforts in the area of health and wellness, **our own Kelly Majszak** was among honorees nominated for the 2011 Grand Traverse County Wellness Award.

Congratulations Kelly!



Thoughts and Prayers

Our thoughts and prayers are with Russ Wright and Judy Clark who have been ill.



On Tuesday, **September 20, 2011, 4:00-6:00 pm**, Dr. Amelia Siders will be our guest at a combined meeting of Learning Partner and CASA volunteers. Dr. Siders is an active member of our court's juvenile drug court and mental health court teams. She will discuss her work through the Child Advocacy Center and share with us some insights on important issues for children, their parents and how volunteers can support families.

This is the regular monthly meeting for CASA volunteers and the September meeting (slightly delayed) for Learning Partners. All interested volunteers are invited to attend.

On **October 18, 2011**, CASA volunteers will meet to discuss current cases, news from National CASA and to plan and touch base regarding the Michigan Conference to be held **November 11 and 12** in Lansing, Michigan.

Learning Partners Were "Catching"

After a one-week delay due to extreme heat, the Learning Partners were able to go fishing and catching on July 27th. There were hundreds of eager, hungry little fish at the DeYoung Natural Area dock. Each student caught at least a dozen fish (or so it seemed!) and we even ran out of worms!

Although all of the students had fished before, some had never actually caught a fish. It was a special thing to watch the students progress from not even touching a worm, to baiting a hook, and even touching the fish!

Thank you to Volunteer Dan Briggs for lending his time, equipment and fishing expertise to our young students. And thanks to each of the Volunteers in attendance for their transportation and enthusiasm that made the day complete: Barb Harmer, Sylvia Keely, and Bev Saur. One mom in attendance said that now that she knew about the location, she was sure to bring her boys back!

A Hike, a Picnic, and a Basket of School Supplies

Learning Partners will celebrate "Back to School" with a nature hike and potluck picnic on August 30th. Families, students and Learning Partner Volunteers will gather at the Nature Center on Cass Road to learn a little about nature. We'll send them home with a positive start to the coming school year including some much-needed school supplies and plans for working together again this school year.



Orientation

A 3-evening pre-service orientation for new and prospective volunteers is planned. Court staff and experienced volunteers will provide an introduction to our Court, its services and information about volunteer opportunities in prevention, probation and guardianship. Join us.

Monday, October 3, 2011
Court Staff

Tuesday, October 4, 2011
Barbara Cross, Maple Clinic
Communication/Understanding Families

Tuesday, October 11, 2011
Citizens In Action Panel
5:30 pm-8:00 pm

Call Volunteer Services at 231-922-4827 for more information and registration.

Please be sure to enter the building by 5:15 pm. Entrance to the building cannot be guaranteed after that time.

Guardians Quarterly Meeting

Our quarterly meeting for volunteer guardians will be held **Tuesday, October 25, 11:30 am at Birchwood Nursing Home, 2950 LaFranier Road.** They have kindly offered "lunch and information" including topics such as: Ask the Nurse, General Health and Nutrition, Keeping People Safe (fall prevention) and navigating financial and admissions questions and paperwork.

Key staff persons will be present to meet you and a tour of the newly renovated center will conclude our visit.

Please RSVP 922-4827.

Senior EmPower Day 2011



Senior EmPower Day is presented by the Board of Advisors of the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan. It is fun, affordable, educational and inspirational.

This year's event will be:

Friday, September 23, 2011

**Timber Wolf Lake Lodge
4909 Morey Road
Lake City, MI**

Activities include guest speakers and fellowship with other senior citizens.

Call 800-442-1713 for details and regis-

Free Money Management Workshops

These workshops are presented by Michigan State University Extension. Titles include Credit Workshop, ID Theft Workshop, Investing and Retirement Planning. They will take place at the Traverse Area District Library.

Registration is required so please call 231-932-8532 for date and time information and to register.

New Vision Academy 2011

New Vision Academy 2011 was completed on Thursday, August 11, 2011. Many thanks to our volunteer group leaders Natalie Terrell and Karianne Merritt for their time and energy spent putting together a wonderful combination of interesting, educational and fun activities for 12 youths covering 6 weeks this summer.

Thanks to, to the volunteers presenters for making time to expose our youths to new ideas and skills to help them now and in the future.

Keith Oberle
Melissa Johnson
Pat Bearss
Karen Grant
Kelly Sefton
Kevin Shoults
Barbara Berta
Denise Busley
Theresa Carey
Elizabeth Stevens

Dana Moore
Roy Bernier
Don Kuehlhorn
Nate Noyse
Dr. Becky Fahey
Kris Makowski
Phil Hamburg
Nicholas Erber
Diana Zapalski
Jill Kimball



New Vision youth make pies as one of the many activities offered during this summer's program



GRAND TRAVERSE AREA LITERACY COUNCIL



Well, summer is over and GTALC activities pick up. Most importantly we have developed a new mission statement: **“The Grand Traverse Area Literacy Council Enables Adults to Achieve Their Literacy Goals”**.

Having reset our mission, GTALC completed the framing of it's Strategic Plan, and we are well into implementing our strategic plan. The strategic teams (Organizational-Office Procedures; Financial-Practices-Fund Development; tutor/Volunteer Training and Practices, and lastly, Web Site and Data Base Revision) are working on policy and operational tasks. Due to the efforts of these teams, our organization's impact, operations and output will be greatly enhanced.

We also continue to develop further ties with our partners, the Probate and Family Court, MichiganWorks! And Traverse Area District Library.

Linda Fawcett, Director of Volunteer Services at the Probate and Family Court and her staff have offered to facilitate access to GTALC's offices when volunteers are not there so tutors can use materials in the office. They will also take applications and make copies of Michigan ID or driver's licenses which will speed up our processing of volunteers and tutor candidates.

MichiganWorks! Continues to partner with GTALC; we now have 3 tutors working at their center on Garfield Ave. in Traverse City.

Jill Porter, Coordinator of Adult Services at Traverse Area District Library, is working with Mary DeGrazia, Vice President GTALC, to set up tutor and learner materials in the newly established Adult Readers Collection at the library, thereby giving tutors access to materials at the library and also at GTALC's office in the courthouse.

Our next tutor training session will be in October. If you wish to volunteer (GTALC needs help in many areas) or to tutor please call our office (231.922-4574) or email us at gtalc22@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Thompson
President GTALC





GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE COURT

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
DAVID L. STOWE, PROBATE & FAMILY COURT JUDGE
280 Washington St, Suite B 150, Traverse City, MI 49684
922-4827

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Return Service Requested

ALL MEETINGS TAKE PLACE AT VOLUNTEER SERVICES
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

LEARNING PARTNERS

1st Tuesday—4:00—5:00 pm

Tuesday, September 20

Note date change, see page 3

Tuesday, October 4



**Volunteer Services Offices will be
Closed**

**Monday, September 5, 2011
Labor Day**

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)

3rd Tuesday – 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Tuesday, September 20

Dr. Amelia Siders

Tuesday, October 18



All volunteer guardians and
interested persons are invited to at-
tend a lunch given by Brichwood-
Tendercare of Traverse City on:

**Tuesday, October 25, 2011
11:30 am
Birchwood Nursing Center**

Please see page 4.

LITERACY COUNCIL

3rd Wednesday – 6:00 pm

Traverse Area District Library

Wednesday, September 21

Wednesday, October 19

